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UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Letter dated 22 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is an honour and pleasure for me to submit to you, on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, the enclosed supplementary documentation on its proposal for a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation (see annex). The information contained in this supplementary documentation should enrich the original proposal, which you kindly circulated with my letter as an official United Nations document (A/48/142) on 3 May 1993.

The people and Government of Papua New Guinea and I extend our most sincere thanks and warm congratulations to you and your dedicated staff for facilitating the inclusion of the above proposal on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In order to provide adequate information for Member States and other delegations for the consideration of this initiative, and in accordance with the appropriate rules of procedures for the General Assembly, may I humbly request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 151.

(Signed) Renagi R. LOHIA OBE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

ON

THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL

OF

A UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE

ON

OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

A LETTER

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

Observing the current situation in and of developing countries,

Aware of the great - and growing - global need for financial and other resources,

Noting the progress being made towards presentation of An Agenda for Development by the United Nations Secretary-General,

Determined to uphold the United Nations Charter, in particular the commitment to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Pledged to encourage and support efforts to increase opportunity and participation, particularly in the economies of developing countries,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Honourable Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. John R. Kaputin, CMG, MP, the Government and People of Papua New Guinea to present to you this Supplementary Documentation on our proposal of a United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

It is our hope that this small initiative can contribute to "...enhancing the role of the Assembly so that it might adequately perform the functions envisaged for it in the Charter..." as the President of the 48th United Nations General Assembly said at the opening of this session.

We are in agreement with President Insanally's sentiments that: "...neither the world nor the United Nations will improve as the result of man's vision. It requires the collective vision of all mankind to make a reality of individual dreams."

Once again, on behalf of the Honourable Foreign Minister John R. Kaputin, CMG, MP, the Government and People of Papua New Guinea, I commend to you all this supplementary information on our proposal of a United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

We share President Insanally's vision and rally to the banner -- "We the peoples - united for a better world."

Please accept, Excellencies, friends and colleagues, the assurances of my highest consideration.

RENAGI R. LOHIA, OBE
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and contents of this document

1. This document has been prepared as a supplement to the Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation", Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993.

2. It is intended to provide additional information for the debate on Item 151in the Agenda for Plenary Meetings, "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation", set down for debate on 15 November 1993.

3. In addition to this Introduction, it consists of the concluding Statements prepared - and unanimously accepted - by National and Regional Workshops on the proposal, as well as an Outline of Possible Terms of Reference for the proposed panel and report discussed (and, again, unanimously accepted) by the same Workshops.

4. Comprehensive reports on both Workshops in the English language are being circulated separately to all United Nations delegations.

Background to the National and Regional Workshops

5. The National and Regional Workshops on Opportunity and Participation were held at the invitation of the Papua New Guinea Government - and with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme - in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 15 - 16 July and 17 - 18 September 1993 respectively.

6. The Workshops were hosted and chaired by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG, MP.

7. Their principal purpose was to assist in developing and refining the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

8. The names and designations of the participants are shown at the end of each concluding statement.

Development of the proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation

9. Opportunity and Participation is the title by which a major Papua New Guinea Government initiative at the United Nations is known for short.

10. The main elements of the proposal are outlines in the Briefing Paper which were embodied in United Nations General Assembly Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993

11. The manner in which the proposal has been developed - and presented before various audiences - can be seen in the extracts from Ministerial statements and other documents reprinted as Appendices to the complete Reports of the National and Regional Workshops.

Promotion and growing support of the proposal

12. The proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation proposal was first outlined in a Statement presented by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, in the General Debate on the United Nations General Assembly on 8 October 1992 (copies can be obtained from the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations).

13. During the first few months of 1993, the proposal was publicised during Ministerial visits and through other diplomatic representations in which a brief outline of the main features was distributed.

14. Expressions of interest and support were received from:

- Governments in -
  Africa,
  Asia,
  Europe,
  Latin America and Caribbean, and
  the South Pacific; as well as
- members of the Group of 77 in New York; and
- the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Co-operation of the Movement of the Non-Aligned (NAM) Countries.

15. The proposal was also discussed with Heads of Mission and officials at the United Nations in New York.

16. On 4 and 5 October respectively, detailed explanations were provided to the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 in New York.

17. A number of Governments have formally indicated their support, both during these Meetings and in the General Debate in the Plenary Meetings as well as in the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

18. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has offered - and provided - assistance to develop and refine the proposal.

19. Earlier in 1993, after the agreement that the proposal would be placed on the Agenda of the Second Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement's Standing Ministerial Committee on Economic Co-operation, held in Bali, Indonesia from 10 to 13 May, a paper containing the Document circulated as United Nations General Assembly Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993 was prepared for submission to:

- o the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement - for presentation to the Bali meeting; and
- o The United Nations Secretary-General - for inclusion in the Provisional Agenda of the 48th United Nations General Assembly.

20. Following an address by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Bali formally agreed to:

(1) recommend to their respective Governments and to Non-Aligned Movement members "that they consider supporting the draft resolution" to be presented to the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; and

(2) "co-operate in ensuring that adequate resources are provided for the implementation of the resolution".

The Minister also decided that further consultation on the proposal should be undertaken in the Non-Aligned Movement's Co-ordinating Bureau in New York.

21. Following the National Workshop - and lodging of the formal request for the inclusion of Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly - the official spokesperson for the 26th Ministerial Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Singapore in July, responded to a request for support from the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs by reaffirming that the proposal:

> can be assured of the continued support of ASEAN.

22. In response to the presentation and discussion of an address by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Right Honourable Paias Wingti CMG MP, the Joint Communique issued by the 7th Heads of Government Summit Meeting of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, which met in Rabaul later in July, declared that:

> The leaders unanimously endorsed the initiative and agreed to render support in respect of future work in pursuit of ... [the] initiative at the South Pacific Forum and the United Nations General Assembly.

23. Consideration of a short summary paper prepared by the Papua New Guinea Government for the Twenty-Fourth South Pacific Forum held in Nauru in August led the fifteen Heads of Government attending to state that:

> In supporting the proposal, the Forum encouraged members of the United Nations also to support the proposal at the Forty-Eighth United Nations General Assembly.

24. Before and since receipt of the expressions and recommendation of support outlined above, consultation - and representations - designed to secure the interest and sympathy of Governments, international organisations and other parties have continued.

25. The United Nations General Assembly has now agreed to include the proposal as Item 151 scheduled for debate on 15 November in the Agenda for the Plenary Meetings of the 48th United Nations General Assembly.

Proceedings and Participants in the National and Regional Workshops

26. The National and Regional Workshops whose conclusions are included in this documents met in both plenary sessions and smaller discussion groups.

27. The participants who were able to accept the Government's invitations to take part, including some who attended both Workshops, were distinguished by the diversity of their personal backgrounds, the breadth of their experience - in government, private sector and other areas of society in diverse parts of the Asia-Pacific region - and their willingness to travel (sometimes, at rather short notice) to Port Moresby, and to give up their time on an honorary basis.

28. Their enthusiasm is clear evidence of the proposal's importance as well as their personal and professional commitment to the interests of those whom it is intended to serve.

29. Their participation has made a substantial contribution to the evolution of the proposal.

Conclusion

30. The Government of Papua New Guinea is most honoured and pleased to present the following supplementary documentation - and to request the support of all United Nations members - for the proposed United Nations initiative on:

Opportunity and Participation.

2. PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

OVERVIEW AND OUTCOME OF WORKSHOP,

PORT MORESBY, 15-16 JULY 1993

(as signed in person by the participants named)

1. Having listened with close attention and great interest to the Opening Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, and having read the supporting documentation outlining the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation, members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop are strongly and unanimously of the view that it is timely --- and, indeed, urgent --- to proceed towards the establishment of a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and thorough report for consideration by the Fiftieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of Opportunity and Participation, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries.

2. They believe that the Government should back the proposal by offering practical support, including financial and human resources, and seek to ensure maximum Papua New Guinea participation at all stages.

3. Having discovered and discussed both the general issues raised and the details spelt out in the Minister's Opening Address as well as the supporting documentation (including, in particular, the formal Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forth-eighth Session, Opportunity and Participation, United Nations General Assembly Document No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993), the participants in the Workshop feel that the proposal has highlighted the need for a national vision, clearly defined objectives and a practical strategy for achieving specific targets in order to increase Papua New Guinean opportunity and participation in development.

4. They believe that the proposed United Nations report should be prepared so that it both draws on experience and stimulates efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation on a local, national, regional and global basis --- with particular regards for the interests, needs and aspirations of people, governments and other bodies in developing countries.

5. The proposal is made all the more appropriate --- and urgent --- by factors such as the:

(1) increasing pressure being placed on available - and prospective - sources of foreign aid, investment and loans by changes occurring in other parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;

(2) growing tendency for people who make and influence policy, both in government and in international organisations, to assume that markets in themselves increase - and provide a bridge between - opportunity and participation, even for people beginning with the relative lack of effective success to officially and commercially recognised resources, including experience and skills, characteristic of people in the rural areas of developing countries; and

(3) continuing failure by the international community to take sufficiently urgent, decisive and effective action to deal with economic issues of global important, such as those raised in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - let alone the worsening circumstances of and in many developing countries; and, in particular,

(4) need to ensure that the current "Resources Boom" so-called, in Papua New Guinea does not simply lead to the exhaustion of resources which are recognised to be non-renewable, such as copper, gold and oil, or to the depletion of resources which ought, in principle, to be renewable, such as forests and fisheries - without providing for increasing Papua New Guinean economic opportunity and participation in the short - let alone the medium- and the long- term.

6. In the course of almost two days of deliberations, members of the Workshop have drawn on their respective experiences - in diverse areas of Government, the private sector and inter-actions between the two - in order to identify issues, including both obstacles and possible options, relevant to increasing opportunity for and participation by Papua New Guineas in development of the country.

7. They have paid particular attention to practical difficulties which arise - and practical means which might be employed - in linking Opportunity effectively to Participation.

8. Recalling the emphasis given to Opportunity and Participation in the National Constitution and in successive Governments' policies, members of the National Workshop fear that Papua New Guinea may be losing -- and may, in fact, even have lost -- its way.

9. There is a consequent need for:

(1) a sense of direction,

(2) clear objectives,

(3) practical measures - as well as incentives, and

(4) action (not more words),

based on recognition of the reality that development is a multifaceted and ongoing process, in which capacity-building for self-reliance is essential.

10. Government should give the most careful consideration to the need to improve:

(1) systems for collecting, analysing, projecting and disseminating important data;

(2) planning beyond - and, arguably, apart from - the annual budgetary process; and

(3) ongoing legal, administrative and institutional reform.

11. Close attention should be paid to the perceptions and experiences of people and bodies who view development from below, or deal with government from outside.

12. In considering the details provided in the proposal being circulated at the United Nations, especially Paragraph 14, members of the Workshop drew particular attention to the need for efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation, including the proposed United Nations report, to take full account of:

(1) national values, including customs and aspirations;

(2) the contributions which might be made by regional - as well as global and functional -organisations;

(3) population growth and movement.

13. They discussed - and urged that further attention should be given to - the need for government, international organisations and the wider community to recognise that development requires:

(1) mobilisation of people and resources, based on awareness of the actual circumstances in which people, particularly rural villagers, women, and other disadvantaged groups, spend their lives;

(2) discipline and accountability in all areas of government, including management and financial control, in order to ensure that "public services" are, in fact, provided;

(3) respect for - and maintenance of - existing services and infrastructure; and

(4) due regard for changing community values and human rights.

14. Capacity-building must be defined so that it includes education, training, and the progressive transfer of responsibility, for localisation.

15. The advantages of access to the best that the world has to offer must be carefully weighed against the need for capacity - including institution - building at home.

16. Policy-makers should recognise the importance of traditional ties and informal networks (including foreign "*wantok*" systems) in defining the actual opportunities for participation by Papua New Guinea in economic activities, both at home and abroad.

17. Above all, change, development and capacity-building - in short, increasing opportunity and participation - should be regarded as continuing, multifaceted processes, which should be viewed in the round (from above below, and all sides) and managed so that they can be sustained and enjoyed by future generations.

18. Recognising the increasing interdependence of even the most diverse aspects of human life and widely scattered parts of the world, members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation welcome the Government's efforts and plans to ensure that the proposed United Nation's initiative on Opportunity and Participation obtains the widest possible international support.

19. They believe that it can make an important contribution to:

(1) mutually beneficial North-South as well as South-South co-operation;

(2) realisation of the objectives of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed Agenda for Development; and

(3) implementation of the right to development recognised and declared by the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June.

20. They are emphatically of the view that the initiative should be regarded as having not only foreign but - even more importantly - domestic policy implications.

21. Members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation -

(1) have appreciated the opportunity to participate in helping to refine the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation;

(2) welcome the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme in preparing and arranging for a Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation; and

(3) commend the further development of the proposal in close consultation with relevant Government agencies, foreign Governments and international organisations - and, above all, the wider community of people concerned with increasing Opportunity and Participation in (but not only in) the economies of developing countries.

22. A report of the proceedings, including this Summary and Outcome of Discussion, of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation will be prepared for:

(1) consideration by relevant Government agencies;

(2) inclusion of the papers to be distributed in preparation for the Regional Workshop; and

(3) wider distribution among those who are interested in the issues and options raised - in Papua New Guinea, the Asia-Pacific region, developing countries, members and agencies of the United Nations.

23. Signed in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 16 July 1993, by:

Chairman:

John R. Kaputin, CMG MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Participants:

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3. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

AGREED STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS, PORT MORESBY, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 1993

(as signed in person by the participants named)

1. Having listened with close attention and great interest to the Opening Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, and having read the Report of the National Workshop held in Port Moresby on 15-16 July 1993 plus Background Documentation, the participants in the Regional Workshop are strongly and unanimously of the view that it is timely --- and indeed, urgent --- for the United Nations General Assembly to be formally asked to agree to a Resolution during the Forth-Eighth Session (which convenes in New York on 21 September 1993) to establish a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and through report for consideration by the Fiftieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly (in 1995) on the subject of Opportunity and Participation.

2. The overseas participants and representatives of the national private sector and other institutions on the Regional Workshop congratulate the Papua New Guinea Government on the initiative.

3. Noting and welcoming the expressions of interest and support which the proposal has already received from many Governments and international organisations, including the Group of Seventy-Seven (G77) ambassadors from developing countries in New York, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and the South Pacific Forum, participants in the Regional Workshop recommend to members of the international community, including Governments of both developing and advanced industrial countries, as well as relevant regional and international organisations, that:

   (1) the proposal should be adopted by consensus in the United Nations General Assembly; and

   (2) they give most serious consideration to assisting in implementation by providing practical support, including financial and human resources.

4. Having considered and discussed both the issues raised in the Minister's Opening Address and subsequent discussion, as well as the supporting documentation (including, in particular, the formal "Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forth-Eighth Session, Opportunity and Participation, " United Nations General Assembly Document Number: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993 and the "Outline of Possible Terms of Reference for the Proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation with Special Reference to the Economies of Developing Countries", which appear as items II.3 and 8 in this Report, participants in the Regional Workshop feel that the proposal has highlighted the need for a global vision, clearly defined objectives, and a practical strategy for achieving specific objectives in order to increase opportunity and participation in development --- locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

5. They believe that the proposed United Nations report should be prepared so that it both draws on experiences and stimulates efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation on a local, national, regional and global basis --- with particular regard for the interests, needs and aspirations of people, governments and other bodies in developing countries.

6. The proposal is made all the more appropriate --- and pressing --- by factors such as the:

(1) increasing pressure being placed on available - and prospective - sources of foreign aid, investment and commercial loans by changes occurring in other parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere;

(2) growing tendency for people who make and influence policy, both in governments and in international organisations, to assume that markets and private sectors themselves increase --- and provide a bridge between --- opportunity and participation, even for people beginning with the relative lack of effective access to officially and commercially recognised resources, including experiences and skills, characteristic of people in the rural areas of developing countries; and

(3) continuing failure by the international community to take sufficiently urgent, decisive and effective action to deal with economic issues of global importance, such as those raised in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - let alone the worsening circumstances of and in many developing countries; and, in particular,

(4) need to ensure that development does not simply lead to the exhaustion of natural resources which are recognised to be non-renewable, such as copper, gold and oil, to the depletion of natural resources, which ought, in principle, to be renewable, such as forests and fisheries, or to environmental damage --- without providing for increasing economic opportunity, continuing human development and sustainable participation for future generations.

In making point (2), participants in the Regional Workshop do not comment on the changes themselves, or suggest that they necessarily giver rise to competition between countries in different regions or with differing developmental needs. In fact, they believe --- very strongly -- that acceptance and implementation of the proposed Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly should be regarded as an occasion for North-South, South-South, regional and other forms of international co-operation, including exchanges of information about experiences of diverse political, economic, legal, administrative and social systems.

7. In the course of almost two days of deliberations, participants in the Regional Workshop have drawn on their respective areas of government, the private sector and educational institutions, in international organisations and in various parts of the world, in order to identify issues, including both obstacles and possible options, relevant to increasing opportunity for and participation by citizens in national development of their respective countries. They recognise that their experiences come mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, while hoping that they will be of interest and use to people, non-governmental organisations and governments elsewhere --- just as they hope to learn from others themselves.

8. They have paid particular attention to practical difficulties which arise --- and practical means which might be employed --- in linking opportunity effectively to participation. Human resources development is an important key.

9. They recall the Minister's statement that many obstacles to opportunity and participation have been inherited, imposed or otherwise imported, while others are essentially homegrown. In doing so, they declare that self-help based on self-examination in relation to self-inflicted and self-induced difficulties should --- and may, indeed, have to come before seeking outside scapegoats or assistance.

10. They believe that bodies which engage in efforts to increase opportunity and participation must be accessible, affordable, acceptable to intended beneficiaries --- and conducted with full regard for the interest of succeeding generation. Such bodies must be accountable for their actions (and inactions).

11. Governments, international organisations and other bodies should recognize that development requires:

(1) vision and a sense of direction

(2) clear objectives,

(3) sensitivity to particular circumstances as well as the interests of particular social groups, including women, handicapped persons, and ethnic and other minorities;

(4) planning based on practical measures, and effective links between Government policy, mechanisms which might assist in implementation, and people; and

(5) action - not more, or mere words - based on recognition of the reality that development is a multifaceted and ongoing process, in which capacity-building for self-reliance is essential.

Meaningful opportunity and participation should be regarded as integral aspects of human development, including human rights.

12. Careful consideration should be given to the need to improve national, regional and international arrangements for:

(1) collecting, analysing, projecting and disseminating important data;

(2) planning beyond - and arguably, apart from - annual budgetary processes;

(3) co-ordination within and between both national governments and international institutions; and

(4) ensuring ongoing legal, administrative and institutional performance appraisal, review and reform.

13. Close attention should be paid to the perceptions and experiences of people and bodies who view development from below, or who deal with government from outside. Non-governmental organisations may often have vital and valuable contributions to make.

14. In considering the details provided in the proposal being circulated at the United Nations, especially Paragraph 14, participants in the Regional Workshop draw particular attention to the need for efforts to increase opportunity and participation, including the proposed United Nations report to take full account of:

(1) national values, including customs and aspirations;

(2) the contributions which might be made by non-governmental, government and inter-governmental - including local, national, regional, global and functional - organisations;

(3) the particular circumstances of people living in rural areas, including the distribution of openings and the delivery of government services to people in areas remote from major urban centers; and

(4) the requirements of sustainable development, including the implications of population growth and movement.

15. The Regional Workshop has discussed - and urges that further attention should be given to - the need for governments, regional and international organisations and the wider community to recognise that development requires:

(1) mobilisation of people and resources, based on awareness of the actual circumstances in which people, particularly rural villagers, women and other disadvantaged groups, spend their lives;

(2) discipline and accountability in all areas of government, including management and financial control, in order to ensure that "public services" are, in fact, provided;

(3) respect for - and maintenance of - existing services and infrastructure; and

(4) due regards for traditional and changing values in particular communities, the contribution which might be made by - and to - non-governmental organisations, and human rights.

16. Capacity-building must be defined so that it includes the transfer of technology and scarce skills, education, training, and progressive localisation. Human resources development, including the elimination of illiteracy, innumeracy and lack of awareness of available opportunities for participation, must be given the highest priority at all times.

17. The advantages of access to the best that the world has to offer must be carefully weighed against the need for capacity - including institution - building at home.

18. Institutions created to assist in development, their effectiveness in facilitating technology transfer, training and other exchanges, as well as such conditions as they might seek to impose should be as transparent as possible, externally accountable, subjected to periodic close scrutiny and review, frankly discussed, and, where appropriate, changed by agreement between concerned parties.

19. Policy-makers should recognise the role that traditional ties and informal networks can - and do - play in development, including the influence that foreign "*wantok*" systems, criminal elements and confidence-tricksters can have in defining opportunities for participation in national development by citizens of developing countries. "Opportunity" and "Participation" must not be allowed to become instruments of opportunism and parasitism.

20. Above all, change, development and capacity-building - in short, increasing opportunity and participation - should be regarded as continuing , multifaceted processed, which should be viewed in the round (from above, below, and all sides) and managed so that they can be sustained and enjoyed by future generations.

21. Questions of equity, distribution and sustainability should be considered together with measurement of growth.

22. Recognising the increasing inter-dependence of even the most diverse aspects of human life and widely scattered parts of the world, participants in the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation welcome the Papua New Guinea Government's efforts and plans to ensure that the proposed United Nations Initiative of Opportunity and Participation obtains the widest possible regional and international support.

23. They believe that discussion, acceptance, and implementation of the initiative can make an important contribution to:

    (1) mutually beneficial North-South, South-South, regional and other forms of mutually beneficial international co-operation;

    (2) realisation of the objectives of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed Agenda for Development; and

    (3) implementation of the right to development recognised and declared by the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June 1993.

24. They are emphatically of the view that members of the United Nations should regard the initiative as having international, including regional as well as domestic, policy implications.

25. Participants in the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation -

(1) have appreciated the invitation to take part in the Regional Workshop - by listening to each other, exchanging experiences, and being able to add to the growing stock of shared ideas; and

(2) express their personal gratitude - and continued support - for the contributions, including financial assistance, provided by the Untied Nations Development Programme.

26. They value the opportunity provided to participate in helping to refine the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

27. They commend the further development and refinement of the proposal in close consultation with all members of the United Nations, interest non-governmental organisations, and relevant regional and other international organisations.

28. Echoing sentiments expressed on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, they believe that the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation deserves the widest - and strongest - possible support from everyone concerned with Opportunity and Participation, particularly in and by the economies of developing countries.

29. A report on the proceedings, including this Agreed Statement, of the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation will be distributed to members of the United Nations, relevant regional and international organisations and other interested parties, including non-governmental organisations.

30. Signed in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 18 September 1993 by:

Chairman:

John R. Kaputin, CMG MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Participants:

Honourable Joses Tuhanuku, MP

Minister for Commerce, Employment and Trade
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Honourable Hilda Lini, MP

Member of Parliament,
Port Vila, Vanuatu

Dame Josephine Abijah, DBE O St J

President,
National Council of Women
Port Moresby

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* The Workshop was serviced by the Secretary, Mr. Gabriel Dusava, and staff of the Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs.

4. OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(prepared during the National Workshop for consideration by participants in the Regional Workshop, and possible use in framing the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations panel)

1. A draft Resolution on the above is currently being prepared in consultation with other Governments and international organizations for possible presentation to the forthcoming (Forty-Eighth) Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The preambular paragraphs of the Resolution will refer to previous and other current efforts, including relevant UNGA Resolutions.

3. The operative paragraphs will provide for:

   (1) the establishment of a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a report; and, in particular,

   (2) the panel's funding and procedures, including deadlines and reporting requirements.

4. As presently envisaged, the terms of reference for the panel will both be subject, and make reference, to the proposed Resolution.

5. They might then go on to propose that the panel should -

- o consult, by seeking submissions and stimulating discussion on the widest possible basis,
- o in order to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and thorough report,
- o on issues and options, including specific practical measures which might be taken,
- o in increasing opportunity and participation, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries,
- o paying close attention, *inter alia*, to the parts that governments and international organisations can play
- o by removing obstacles,
  introducing reforms, and

  assisting in the provision of necessary links.

6. The panel should take a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach, embracing relevant areas of:

(1) public policy, law, and administration, and

(2) economics, finance, and banking.

including the parts that governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, including commercial bodies in the private sector, might play.

7. It should take account of:

(1) historical and cultural factors, including values , practices and aspirations;

(2) national sovereignty and systems of government; and

(3) the availability of human, financial and other resources.

8. Its findings should be consistent with:

(1) international law, including the Charter of the United Nations;

(2) national sovereignty; and

(3) the rights of

- citizens, including -

women,

indigenous people,

minorities,

children,

physically and intellectually handicapped persons, as well as

other disadvantaged groups.

9. They should:

(1) take full account of relevant aspects of the regional and international environment;

(2) draw on actual experiences in identifying issues, obstacles and options worldwide; and

(3) be drawn up with due consideration for the particular circumstances of least developed island developing and land-locked countries.

10. The recommendations should be:

(1) sensitive to particular local, national and regional experiences, circumstances and aspirations;

(2) specific;

((3) detailed; and

(3) capable of practical implementation.

11. They should be consistent with, and directed towards -

    (1) capacity-building,

    (2) the achievement of national self-reliance,

    (3) sustainable development, and

    (4) international (including North-South, South-South and other forms) of co-operation

    - on an ongoing basis.

12. The panel should simultaneously:

    (1) draw on, and

    (2) seek to stimulate,

    a worldwide information exchange.

13. While seeking to meet the ultimate deadline, it should be encouraged to produce:

    (1) discussion papers, and

    (2) interim reports.

14. The above are, obviously, not in draft terms of reference so much as guidelines for use in drafting.

15. Having been invited to do so, participants in the National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation have considered their refinement and elaboration.